



State Board of Equalization

# News Release

**Vice Chair Michelle Steel**

**3<sup>rd</sup> District – Rolling Hills Estates**

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## **California Gasoline Consumption Fell 1.7%, Diesel Fuel Consumption Rose 11.1%**

*Average Gas Prices Rose 20%, Average Diesel Prices Rose 27% in August 2011*

Michelle Steel, Vice Chair of the California State Board of Equalization (BOE), today announced California's gasoline and diesel consumption figures for August 2011. In California, gasoline consumption fell 1.7 percent in August 2011, while diesel fuel consumption rose 11.1 percent.

*Editor's note –The two charts below show percent change in gasoline and diesel consumption compared to 12-months prior from July 2009 through August 2011.*

California's gasoline consumption declined 1.7 percent to 1.27 billion gallons in August 2011 compared to 1.29 billion gallons used in August 2010. In California, the average price for a gallon of gasoline in August 2011 rose 63 cents to \$3.82, a 20 percent increase compared to August 2010 when the average price was \$3.19 per gallon of gasoline. Nationally, the average price of a gallon of gasoline in August 2011 was up 92 cents to \$3.70 per gallon, a 33 percent increase over the average price of a gallon of gasoline of \$2.78 in August 2010.

California's diesel consumption increased 11.1 percent for a total 228 million gallons in August 2011 compared to the total of 205 million gallons of diesel consumed in August 2010. The average price of diesel fuel in California was up 85 cents to \$4.01 per gallon in August 2011, a 27 percent increase over the average price of a gallon of diesel of \$3.16 in August 2010. Nationally, the average price of a gallon of diesel was up 90 cents to \$3.86 in August 2011, a 30 percent increase over the average U.S. price of a gallon of diesel of \$2.96 in August 2010.

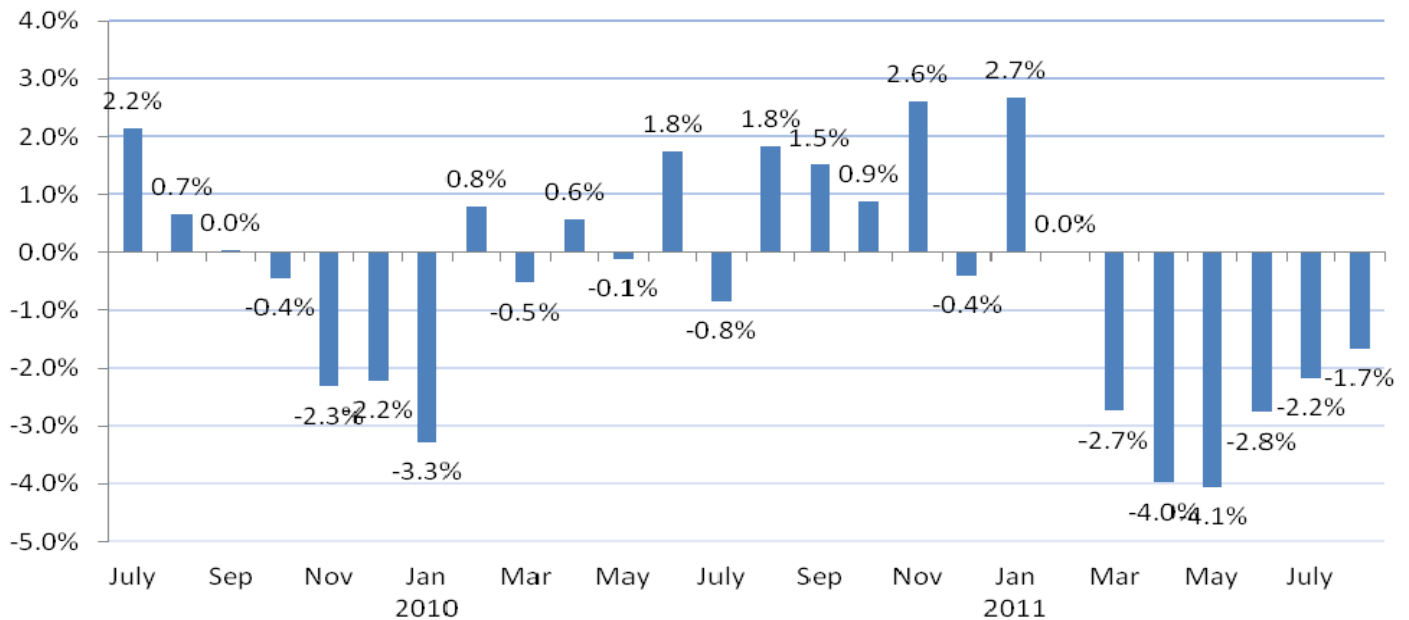
Gasoline and diesel fuel figures are net consumption that includes the State Board of Equalization's audit assessments, refunds, amended and late tax returns, and the State Controller's Office refunds. Figures for September and third quarter 2011 are scheduled to be available at the end of December 2011.

For all monthly, quarterly and annual fuel reports, visit [www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/spftrpts.htm](http://www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/spftrpts.htm).

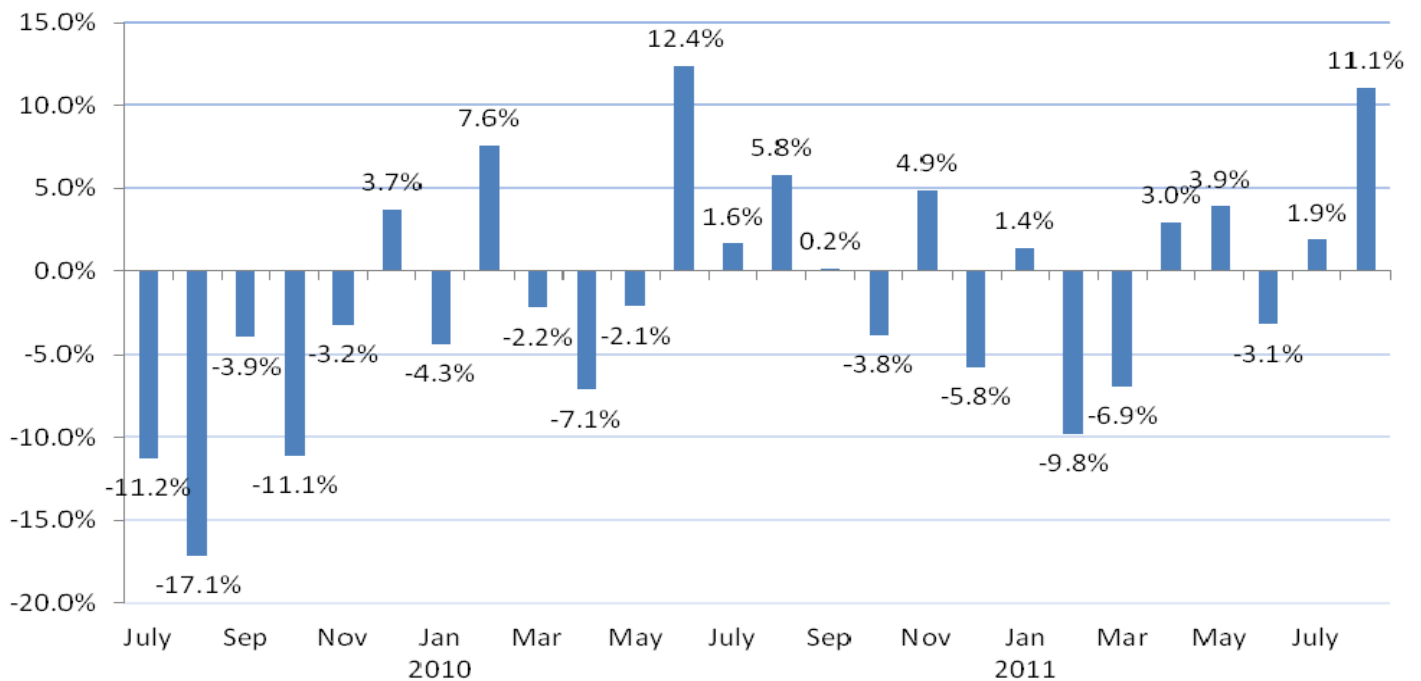
Taxable Gasoline Gallons: [www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/reports/MVF\\_10\\_Year\\_Report.pdf](http://www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/reports/MVF_10_Year_Report.pdf)

Taxable Diesel Gallons: [www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/reports/Diesel\\_10\\_Year\\_Report.pdf](http://www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/reports/Diesel_10_Year_Report.pdf)

## Percent Change in Gas Consumption Compared to Twelve Months Prior From July 2009 Through August 2011



## Percent Change in Diesel Gallons Compared to Twelve Months Prior From July 2009 Through August 2011



Elected to the Board of Equalization in 2006 and re-elected in 2010, Michelle Steel serves as *Southern California's elected taxpayer advocate*. In December 2007, Steel discovered the Board of Equalization had delayed the return of millions of dollars in security deposits owed to California businesses. Procedures were changed due to Steel's decisive leadership. Following her investigation, the tax agency refunded tax security deposits to over 5,500 small businesses. To date, over \$100 million in security deposits have been returned to taxpayers.

The five-member California State Board of Equalization (BOE) is a publicly elected tax board. The BOE collects more than \$50 billion annually in taxes and fees supporting state and local government services. It hears business tax appeals, acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals, and serves a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes. For more information on other taxes and fees in California, visit [www.taxes.ca.gov](http://www.taxes.ca.gov).

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